

Message Text

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EXDIS MIL ADDDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE .

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: MPOL, NATO, BE, GW

SUBJECT: WARTIME COLLOCATION OF HQ USEUCOM AT SHAPE

REFS: A. SHAPE 1671 161715Z MAY 78 (NOTAL); B. SHAPE 2371

041122Z JUL 78 (NOTAL)

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1. WE ARE REVIEWING STATUS OF AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION
ON USG REQUEST TO GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM FOR WARTIME
COLLOCATION OF HQ USEUCOM AT SHAPE.

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION ON 18 MAY BETWEEN SECDEF AND MOD
VANDEN BOEYNANTS, LATEST NEGATIVE INDICATIONS FROM

BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CAME DURING CONVERSATION AT MAY SUMMIT BETWEEN SECSTATE AND FOMIN SIMONET. SIMONET TOLD SECSTATE THAT BELGIUM WAS IN THE MIDST OF AN AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL OVER THE BUDGET AND HE HAD HOPES FOR POSITIVE DECISIONS ON THE 3 PERCENT GOAL AND FOR THE HAWK BELT IMPROVEMENT. HOWEVER, HE PERSONALLY HAD TURNED DOWN THE WARTIME COLLOCATION PLAN BECAUSE HE FEARED PUSH ON ALL THREE FRONTS WOULD OVERLOAD AN ALREADY FRAIL BOAT AND SINK ALL THREE PROGRAMS TOGETHER. PRESIDENT CARTER DID NOT RAISE THE ISSUE WITH TINDEMANS AT THE SUMMIT.

3. THE HOUSE AND SENATE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES HAVE DISAPPROVED OUR FY 1979 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION REQUEST OF \$48 MILLION FOR EUCOM WAR HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE MERITS OF THE PROGRAM BUT LARGELY DUE TO LACK OF GOB APPROVAL.

4. BASED ON PRESENT BELGIAN POLITICAL SITUATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BRUSSELS' ASSESSMENT OF LIKELIHOOD OF AN AFFIRMATIVE BELGIAN RESPONSE IF US WERE TO PRESS THE REQUEST NOW, PLUS ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE WOULD BE MORE LIKELY IF US WERE TO DEFER APPROACH TO GOB UNTIL SEPTEMBER, END OF YEAR, OR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

5. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE SHAPE'S MORE DETAILED
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ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHEDULE FOR PROJECT 85, HOW WELL IT IS LIKELY TO HOLD UP, AND WHAT DELAY IN PROJECT 85 MIGHT OCCUR IF AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE ON EUCOM COLLOCATION IS NOT OBTAINED UNTIL SEPTEMBER, END OF YEAR, OR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

6. FYI. WE GIVE BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN HAWK EUROPEAN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND AWACS HIGHER PRIORITY THAN EUCOM COLLOCATION AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD NOT WANT EFFORTS ON COLLOCATION EITHER TO GIVE BELGIANS AN INDICATION THAT WE GIVE COLLOCATION EQUAL OR HIGHER PRIORITY, OR TO HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR EFFORTS FOR BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN HELIP AND AWACS. END FYI.

7. THIS IS A JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE.

CHRISTOPHER

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